

Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-04

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00

ACDA-07 AGR-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00

CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05

FEAE-00 FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 IO-13

JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-01 OES-06 OMB-01

PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAL-01 OIC-02 /114 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4555

INFO USMISSION USUN IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T MEXICO 5545

USUN FOR AMBASSADOR LEARSON

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS MX

SUBJECT: LOS COMMITTEE I PACKAGE NEGOTIATION

1. FOLLOWING ON YESTERDAY'S TELEPHONE CONVERSATIONS WITH ROGERS AND LEARSON, I MET FIRST WITH PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA'S CONFIDANT, FERNANDO GUTIERREZ BARRIOS, AND LATER THAT NIGHT WITH PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA HIMSELF IN ORDER TO MAKE PLEA THAT MEXICAN DELEGATION TAKE NO ACTION TO IMPAIR CHANCES OF ACCEPTANCE OF THE COMMITTEE I PACKAGE TEXT BY THE GP OF 77.

2. ECHEVERRIA, WHO HAD ALREADY BEEN BRIEFED BY GUTIERREZ BARRIOS OF OUR PREVIOUS CONVERSATION, CLAIMED TO HAVE BEEN UNFAMILIAR WITH LOS PROCEEDINGS, BUT HAD INQUIRED OF FOREIGN MINISTRY AND HAD BEEN ASSURED THAT NO DEFINITE DECISIONS WOULD BE MADE AT NEXT DAY'S MEETING OF GROUP OF 77. IN ANY CASE HE HAD GIVEN INSTRUCTIONS THAT

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MEXICAN DELEGATION ADOPT A CONSTRAINED, NON-STRIDENT AND

NON-LEADERSHIP ROLE IN THE DISCUSSIONS.

3. PRESIDENT THEN WENT ON TO DISCUSS AT GREAT LENGTH AND WITH CONSIDERABLE HEAT THE MATTER OF "SINSTER AMERICAN PRESSURE" FOR DEVALUING THE MEXICAN PESO, WHICH WILL BE REPORTED SEPARATELY. AFTER DOING MY BEST TO CALM HIM ON THIS SUBJECT I RETURNED TO THE MATTER OF LOS COMMITTEE ONE AND WITHOUT LINKING IT DIRECTLY TO MATTER OF OUR SUPPORT OF PESO, POINTED OUT THAT A DIRECT CONFRONTATION BETWEEN OUR DELEGATIONS IN THE U.S. FORUM WOULD MERELY STRENGTHEN SPECULATION REGARDING OUR MUTUAL RELATIONSHIP, THAT IT WAS IN OUR COMMON INTEREST TO AVOID. I THEN MADE A FURTHER STRONG PLEA FOR A MORE COOPERATIVE ATTITUDE ON THE PART OF THE MEXICAN DELEGATION POINTED OUT RISKS OF DESTROYING CHANCES OF CONCLUDING A LAW OF THE SEA TREATY AND RISKS THAT CERTAIN COUNTRIES MIGHT THEN BE TEMPTED TO ACT UNILATERALLY ON MATTERS, ETC. UTILIZING ALL ELOQUENT ARGUMENTS GIVEN ME BY AMBASSADOR LEARSON. BY THIS TIME PRESIDENT WAS MORE RELAXED AND PROMISED THAT HE WOULD REPEAT AND REINFORCE HIS INSTRUCTIONS TO THE MEXICAN DELEGATION. HE CONCLUDED JOKINGLY THAT THE LAST THING HE WANTED IS A CASSUS BELLI WITH THE U.S. OVER THE DEEP SEA BEDS WHICH COULD NOT BENEFIT MEXICO FOR A GENERATION OR MORE TO COME; SAYING THERE ARE OTHER MORE IMPORTANT THINGS BETWEEN US AT THIS TIME THAT WE MUST CONCENTRATE ON.

4. WHILE I TRUST THAT THIS DEMARCHE TO THE PRESIDENT WILL PRODUCE USEFUL RESULTS, HAVING BEEN THROUGH SUCH EXERCISES IN THE PAST, I AGREE WITH BILL ROGERS' APHORISM THAT THE PROOF OF THE PUDDING IS IN THE EATING.

5. INCIDENTALLY, IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT WHILE I WAS ALONE WITH GUTIERREZ I QUERIED HIM AS TO STATUS OF PRESIDENT'S ASPIRATIONS RE UN SECRETARY GENERALSHIP. GUTIERREZ SAID THAT WHILE THE PRESIDENT WAS NOT VERY HOPEFUL, HE STILL CONSIDERED HIMSELF ONE OF SEVERAL POTENTIAL CANDIDATES, AND THAT CURIOUSLY WHEN HE HAD TOLD ECHEVERRIA THE SUBJECT OF MY PROPOSED CONVERSATION, THE PRESIDENT HAD
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OBSERVED THAT HE HOPED WE DID NOT THINK ATTITUDE OF MEXICAN DELEGATION WAS LINKED TO HIS OWN ASPIRATIONS...
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